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LETTER DATED 4 APRIL 1994 FROM THE DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to present to you the attached letter from Mr. Mirko Pejanović, a member of the Presidency of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, to you dated 31 March 1994.

May I ask for your kind assistance in circulating this letter as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ivan Z. MISIC
Deputy Permanent Representative

Annex

Letter dated 31 March 1994 from the President of the Serb Civic Council and member of the Presidency of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to inform you that the Assembly of Citizens of Serbian Nationality and of Serb Ethnic Origin of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, held on 27 March 1994 in Sarajevo, with the participation of 428 delegates and a great number of distinguished guests, His Excellency Mr. Charles Redman, Special Envoy of the President of the United States, Mr. Bill Clinton, for former Yugoslavia being one of them, successfully completed its work with the adoption of two documents:

Declaration of the Assembly of Citizens of Serbian Nationality and of Serb Ethnic Origin; and

Appeal to the Citizens and Peoples of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina to Summon the Convention of Confidence.

On this occasion I attach hereto the above-mentioned documents.

The Assembly has elected the Serb Civic Council that is to represent the will and interests of the citizens of Serbian nationality and of Serb ethnic origin, who live in the territory controlled by the legal authorities of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, before the international forums, particularly relating to activities of the peace process.

We are certain that we shall have your full support for our efforts in establishing a just peace and a free, independent and sovereign Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, within its internationally recognized borders, to the benefit of all its constituent peoples, Bosniacs, Serbs and Croats, and all others who live in it.

(Signed) Mirko PEJANOVIĆ
President of the Serb Civic Council
and member of the Presidency of the
Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina

Enclosure I

Declaration dated 27 March 1994 of the Assembly of Citizens of Serbian Nationality and of Serb Ethnic Origin

Citizens of Serbian nationality and of Serb ethnic origin in the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, of various political convictions, both believers and atheists, condemn the aggression against Bosnia and Herzegovina, demand peace, without any delay, and negotiations as the civilized way of resolving conflicts and disputes.

The Assembly emphasizes that no political objective whatsoever can justify the suffering of innocent population, genocide and ethnic cleansing committed against all the citizens, against Bosnian Muslims in particular, and the destruction of huge material and spiritual assets.

Therefore, we voice our protest again, in order to bring to trial all those who inspired and perpetrated war crimes, observing the principle of individual responsibility and guilt and against every form of imposing collective responsibility.

Bosnia and Herzegovina is the historical fact and its future lies in its independence and sovereignty, within its internationally recognized borders. It is only the citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina who have the inalienable right to arrange their country the way they want it.

We plead for the Republic constituted on the principles of parliamentary democracy and political pluralism in which human rights and freedoms will be guaranteed equally to all its citizens.

The Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina should be arranged as a federal State, on the principle of regional and local self-governance, without ethnic connotations and dominations. Federal authority should be established on a parity basis, while regional and local ones should be established on the proportional participation of citizens of all ethnic groups. Mechanisms should be established on the entire territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina in order to prevent every form of majority hegemony and domination based on ethnic or religious grounds.

We plead for the social and economic system which would be founded on the market economy, equality of all forms of ownership, free enterprise and openness to new ideas, know-how and knowledge.

It is in such solutions that we see the fulfilment of the interest of Serbian people - on equal grounds, together with Bosniacs and Croats as well as other ethnic groups.

The Assembly particularly underlines that the crucial prerequisite for peace and for stable development of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina is the reciprocal recognition of all the States originating from former Yugoslavia,

the restoration of mutual confidence and cooperation and, eventually, joining on the basis of full equality.

The Assembly insists on the complete recovery of human and civic rights. These are the presumptions of a modern and democratic society within which full appreciation and fostering of specific ethnic traits, heritage and culture, full national equality within and outside the government institutions and bodies, would be realized.

The Assembly calls upon all citizens, particularly those of Serbian nationality and Serb ethnic origin, to commit themselves to the building of confidence among people based on tradition and mutual understanding, respect and appreciation of national, political, cultural, religious and other specific traits.

Today, the citizens of Serbian nationality and Serb ethnic origin, those who have always declared themselves in favour of peaceful settlement of the existing problems, are looking for a fair peace, freedom and a democratic society.

They have endeavoured and will continue to do so, despite all temptations, in order to build the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, jointly and equally with its other citizens.

We deny anyone, particularly the Serbian Democratic Party (SDS) that is the principal culprit of the ethnic conflict and aggression, to claim to represent all the citizens of Serb ethnic origin. The same we deny to any political subject who could cause ethnic conflicts and suffering of citizens.

We underline the importance of the struggle against every nationalism within its own people. Because, besides causing damage and evil to its own people, it generates nationalism within other peoples. We also oppose all individuals who, through their secret or open actions, provoke ethnic hatred and conflicts for the sake of their selfish interests which they promote as national interests and even as the interests of the State itself. They provide ground for fascism and pose a lethal threat to the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina and its citizens.

The Assembly rejects every attempt to create a new demographic map of Bosnia and Herzegovina and strongly condemns the methods of ethnic cleansing and forcible displacement of people. We demand that the international community and all the authorities create necessary conditions for the safe return of all citizens to their homes and also provide compensation for all their hardships.

The Assembly considers that the will of the citizens of Serbian nationality and origin who live on the territory under the control of legal authorities of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina should be represented by the Serb Civic Council before the international forums and in the peace process.

Fully aware of the evil caused by the war, national fascism and ethnic divisions, we appeal to all the political parties, civic associations, cultural institutions and religious communities to convene jointly the Convention of

Confidence of the Citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina. We want to live in peace and freedom and to share it with all the others.

Our lasting objective and task is to struggle for the integral, democratic Bosnia and Herzegovina, the community of free and equal citizens and peoples.

Enclosure II

Appeal dated 27 March 1994 to the Citizens and Peoples of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina to summon the Convention of Confidence

Aware of the unprecedented evil caused by the aggression, war and genocide, we appeal to all the peace-loving, democracy-oriented citizens, political organizations, cultural institutions, associations of citizens, religious communities, humanitarian and other organizations and associations to organize jointly the Convention of Confidence of all the citizens and all the peoples of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The Convention of Confidence is the expression of our will and desire to initiate the process of re-establishing, cherishing and developing mutual confidence among the citizens and peoples, though it is not our intention to forget and ignore the necessity to identify and punish the perpetrators of the war crimes and genocide.

The Convention of Confidence is the expression of our desire to live together - in peace and freedom - in the sovereign, internationally recognized State of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The Convention of Confidence is also the expression of our resolution to achieve a democratic State which would meet the needs of all its citizens, the State of equal peoples.

The Convention of Confidence is the expression of our joint stance on the condemnation of the war crimes that have been committed as well as of every form of violence perpetrated against men and our joint resolution to provide conditions for all the expelled and refugees to return home.

The Convention of Confidence will reconfirm our resolute stance that Bosnia and Herzegovina is the joint and lasting - equally responsible - task for all of us.

The Assembly would like to initiate the submitting of the request to carry out the prosecution of all the war crimes perpetrated in the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina, based on the gathered proofs and facts.